

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 AGR-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /153 W
----- 088964

R 201117Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8155

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 1088

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, SU

SUBJ: GUM ARABIC

REF: STATE 102549

1. GUM ARABIC CORPORATION (GAC) OFFICIALS INFORMED EMBASSY MAY 18 THAT NO FINAL DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN ON MARKETING POLICY TO BE FOLLOWED WITH REGARD TO REMAINDER THIS YEAR'S CROP AND AS RESULT THERE IS LIKEWISE NO DECISION ON QUANTITY TO BE OFFERED. GAC IS STILL ARGUING STRONGLY FOR RETURNING TO FIXED PRICES SYSTEM WHICH WOULD APPLY TO ALL REMAINING GUM FOR REMAINDER OF MARKETING SEASON. BUT CLEARLY MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR MAXIMIZATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS WHICH PRESUMABLY ACHIEVED THROUGH TENDERING. IF MINISTRY WINS OUT GAC ANTICIPATES BETWEEN 5 AND 7 THOUSAND TONS OF HASHAB TO BE OFFERED IN NEXT SALE.

2. RE TIMING OF SALE, GAC IS APPRECIATIVE OF POSSIBLE ADVERSE IMPACT OF HIGH PRICES WHICH US IMPORTERS NOW STUDYING. STUDY WILL CLEARLY BE OF INTEREST TO NZVKE YIF OXICWSL# REGRET, HOWEVER, THAT THEY UNABLE DELAY DECISION AND
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ANNOUNCEMENT OF MARKEKTING POLICY WHICH EXPECTED BEFORE

END OF MAY. NUMBER OF FACTORS INVOLVED, NOT LEAST OF WHICH
IS RELATIONSHIP GUM MARKETING DECISIONS TO GOS BUDGET
ESTIMATES WHICH NOW IN FINAL STAGES PREPARATION.

3. COMMENT: AS STATED KHARTOUM A-44, SUDAN'S SHORT
TERM GAIN IN GUM MARKETING THIS YEAR MAY BE ITS LONG TERM
LOSS. SOME, INCLUDING GAC REALIZE THIS, BUT TO DATE THEY
ARE FIGHTING LOSING BATTLE.
BREWER

NOTE BY OCT: # AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

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